ROBERT KIRKMAN LORENZO DE FELICI PATRICIO DELPECHE

VOID RIVALS

image

#05

ENERGON UNIVERSE

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OKAY, SO... EXACTLY HOW MUCH TROUBLE ARE WE IN?

I WOULD CALCULATE THAT--

NOT YOU. *HER.*

WELL, WE HAVE A SECRET. A VERY ***IMPORTANT*** SECRET THAT THOSE IN POWER WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO KEEP.

THERE'S ONLY ONE GUARANTEED WAY TO KEEP THAT SECRET.

IS THIS A RIDDLE? ARE WE PLAYING A ***GAME*** HERE? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THEY'RE GOING TO *KILL* US.

DO YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF, SOLILA? ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE CHOICES YOU MADE?

I AM NOT.

WE COULD HAVE DEALT WITH THIS SEPARATELY. NICE LITTLE ESCAPE PODS TO OUR SEPARATE HOMES. ***BUT NO,*** YOU HAD TO COMPLICATE THINGS.

I WOULD HAVE PROBABLY ENDED UP HERE ANYWAY. BUT FOR WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU, I'M SORRY.

EH... THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US ***BOTH.*** DOESN'T THAT MAKE US EVEN SOMEHOW?

WELL, YOU STILL HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PEOPLE THEY WANT. THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING TO ALSO ***TORTURE*** YOU FIRST.

WHAT?!

SHUNK

GRAB HIM.

NO. NO. NO.

HOLD HIM.

PSSSSH

AW, MAN...

...

MISTRESS VILL?! HOW?!

OUR ORDER GOES WHERE IT PLEASES. YOU KNOW THIS. OR RATHER, YOU DID ONCE. IT PAINS ME TO SEE YOU FALLEN ***SO LOW,*** MY CHILD.

I AM YOUR CHILD NO LONGER, WITCH. I TURNED MY BACK ON YOU ***ZEALOTS*** LONG AGO.

I AM A WARRIOR. I AM A PILOT. I NO LONGER BELONG TO YOUR ORDER.

YOU HAVE BECOME WHAT WE HAVE ***ALLOWED*** YOU TO BECOME. YOUR PATH HAS BEEN ORDAINED AND YOU WALK IT AS DESIGNED.

ZERTA SEES ALL. ZERTA KNOWS ALL. ONCE YOU HAVE BATHED IN THE LIGHT OF ZERTA, IT CANNOT BE ***UNDONE.***

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A ***KEEPER OF THE LIGHT.*** THAT IS ZERTA'S WILL.

IT IS NOT ***ZERTA'S*** WILL YOU FOLLOW BUT ***YOUR OWN.***

ZALILAK'S POISON FLOWING FROM YOUR LIPS. A PITY. HOW CAN ONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE ***FIRST CHOSEN*** BE SO ***BLIND?***

SURELY YOUR TEACHINGS ALLOW YOU TO SEE THROUGH THAT CHARLATAN.

THERE IS THE SOLILA I REMEMBER. SO MUCH SAID WITHOUT WORDS...

MISTRESS VILL, WHY DO YOU TORMENT ME WITH YOUR PRESENCE?

IS MY IMPRISONMENT NOT PUNISHMENT ENOUGH?

PUNISHMENT?

WERE THE ***CAVERNS OF RALL*** A PUNISHMENT? OR IS WHAT YOU LEARNED THERE A ***GIFT?*** YOUR TRIALS ARE WHAT MADE YOU WHO YOU ARE, CHILD.

AND, BY ZERTA, THEY CONTINUE TO THIS DAY.

WHERE YOU FIND YOURSELF NOW IS NO DIFFERENT... PUNISHMENT? MAYBE. MORE LIKELY A DETOUR THAT WILL SOON BE AT ITS END.

IT IS NOT YOUR DESTINY TO DIE HERE. A ***KEEPER OF THE LIGHT*** DOESN'T MEET THEIR END IN DARKNESS. SOON YOU WILL FIND YOUR PATH AND RESUME YOUR JOURNEY.

WHERE YOUR PATH NOW LEADS, ***NO ZERTONIAN*** HAS EVER VENTURED.

WE ARE HERE TO PREPARE YOU FOR WHAT IS TO COME...

AND PROVIDE YOU WITH A ***UNIQUE ITEM OF POWER*** WHICH WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO YOUR JOURNEY.

I AM MORE THAN PREPARED TO **PASS JUDGEMENT** ON YOU, VILE CREATURE.

YOU **DARE** STEP FOOT ON QUINTESSA? YOU **DARE** PRESENT US WITH THIS... TRANSACTION?

YOU WILL BE FOOD FOR OUR **SHARKTICONS** BEFORE THIS CYCLE'S END.

YOUR HONOR, ***PLEASE.*** I AM BUT A HUMBLE SERVANT--I AIM TO PLEASE, AS ALWAYS. I HAVE PROVIDED SERVICES TO YOUR KIND MANY TIMES IN THE PAST. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO DAMAGE THAT RELATIONSHIP.

I AM RETURNING THIS PROSECUTOR TO YOU, SAFE AND SOUND, AT ***GREAT EXPENSE*** TO MYSELF.

IS IT WRONG OF ME TO WISH TO BE MADE ***WHOLE*** FOR MY TROUBLES?

THIS ONE WAS TRANSPORTING A QUINTESSON **SCORPIA.**

IT WAS BOUND FOR THE FIGHTING ARENAS ON THE PLANET **DOMINUS.**

IT WAS OF **TREMENDOUS** VALUE TO US.

WHERE IS IT?

...

WELL...

THIS WRETCH ALLOWED THE SCORPIA TO BE DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR! ONE OF ITS CLAWS WERE SEVERED. HE ALSO TOOK ME TO CYBERTRON TO TRY AND SELL--

SILENCE!

YOU ARE A DISGRACE.

REMOVE THIS ONE FROM MY SIGHT. HE WILL BE DEALT WITH LATER. AS FOR YOU, SKUXXOID...

GIVE US **ONE** REASON YOU SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE QUINTESSA ALIVE.

I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE A LIVING! YOU CAN'T PUNISH ME FOR THAT.

PLEASE!

IT'S HARD OUT THERE IN THE GALAXY. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE! I HAVE A WIFE AND--

NO!

NO!

NO!

PREPARE HIM FOR **TRIAL.**

WAIT! I'LL BE IN YOUR DEBT! I CAN BE USEFUL! I CAN GIVE YOU YOUR SHIP, TOO! ***ALL MY SHIPS!*** MY ROCKEROID!

I HAVE A NEW SHIP--BOTH AGORRIAN AND ZERTONIAN ORIGIN. ***RARE METALS*** NOT SEEN IN THIS QUADRANT!

STOP!

DID YOU SAY... **ZERTONIAN?**

THREE *DAYS* OF THIS AND STILL WE HAVE GLEANED NOTHING. *IMPRESSIVE.*

DARAK...

PILOT...

YES. WE KNOW.

FAMOUS PILOT. THE *BEST* AGORRIAN PILOT TO LIVE BY SOME ACCOUNTS.

SON OF MINISTER DULIN.

THESE WERE THINGS KNOWN TO US *PRIOR* TO OUR TIME SPENT TOGETHER. IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE LIVING, YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE US WITH SOMETHING *NEW.*

OH. THAT'S ALL?

I'M SINGLE.

PEOPLE THINK I'M QUITE THE LADIES MAN, BUT THAT'S MORE OR LESS A PERSONA. IF I'M HONEST, I'M QUITE SHY.

MY FAVORITE FOOD IS--

WHOMP

I'LL LEAVE YOU TO DWELL ON HOW ***SEVERE*** OUR NEXT ROUND WILL BE, AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU'LL SURVIVE IT.

=HEH.=

OKAY, HANDROID. THIS IS IT. TIME TO EARN YOUR KEEP.

GOTTA BE ***SOMETHING***--AN IMPERFECTION IN THE RESTRAINTS, WEAK SPOT IN THE FLOOR, SCAN EVERYTHING, ***COME ON!***

HANDROID?

ARE YOU OFFLINE?

HANDROID? COME ON.

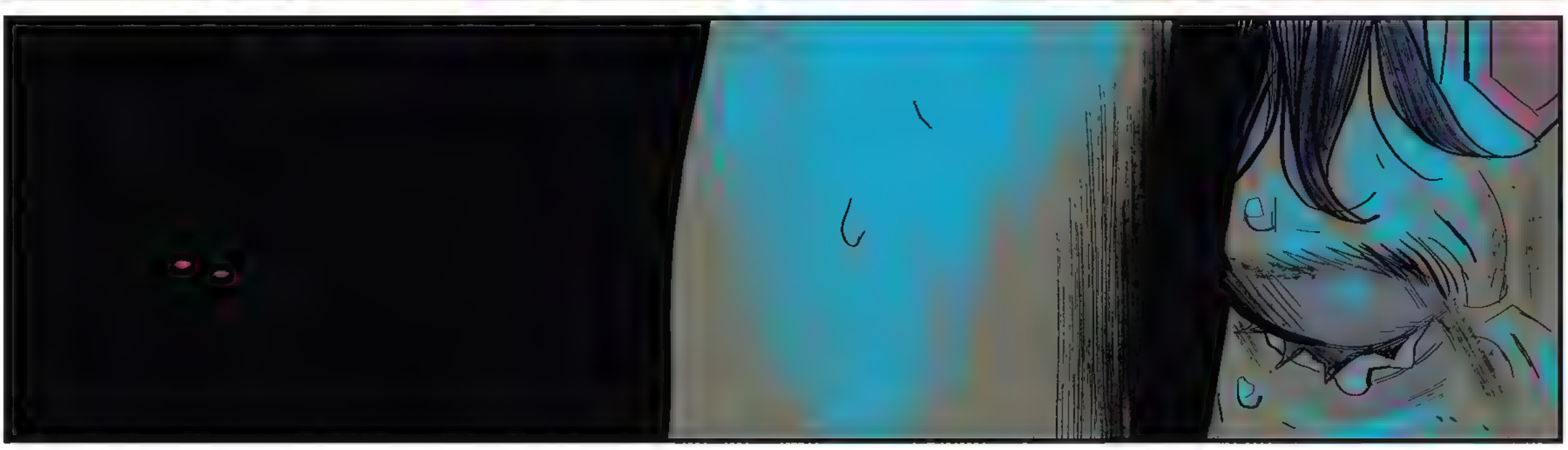
HELLO?

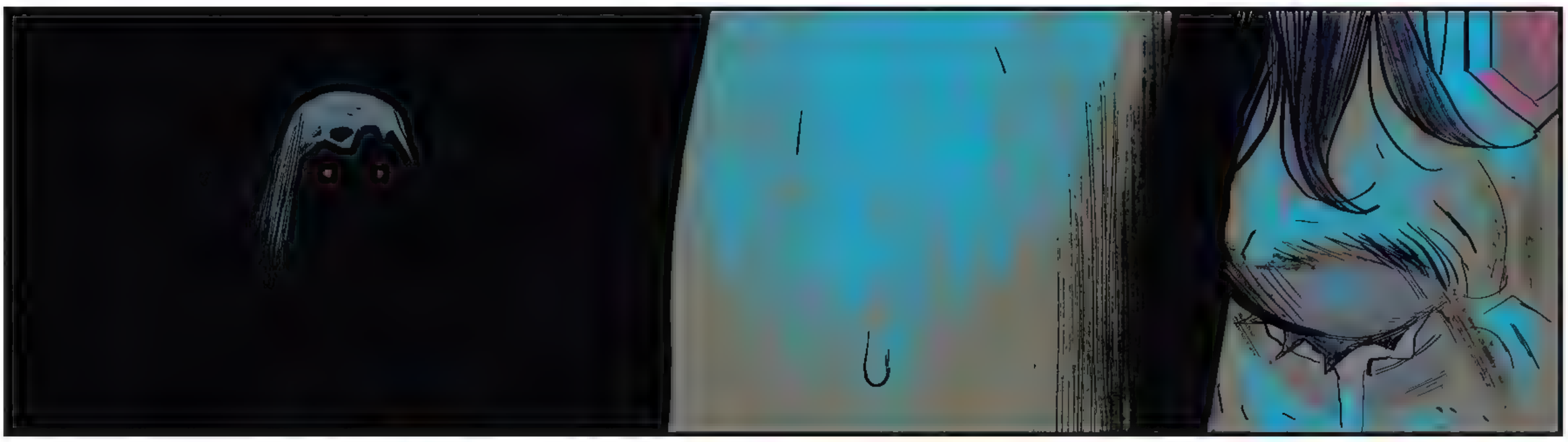
HA.

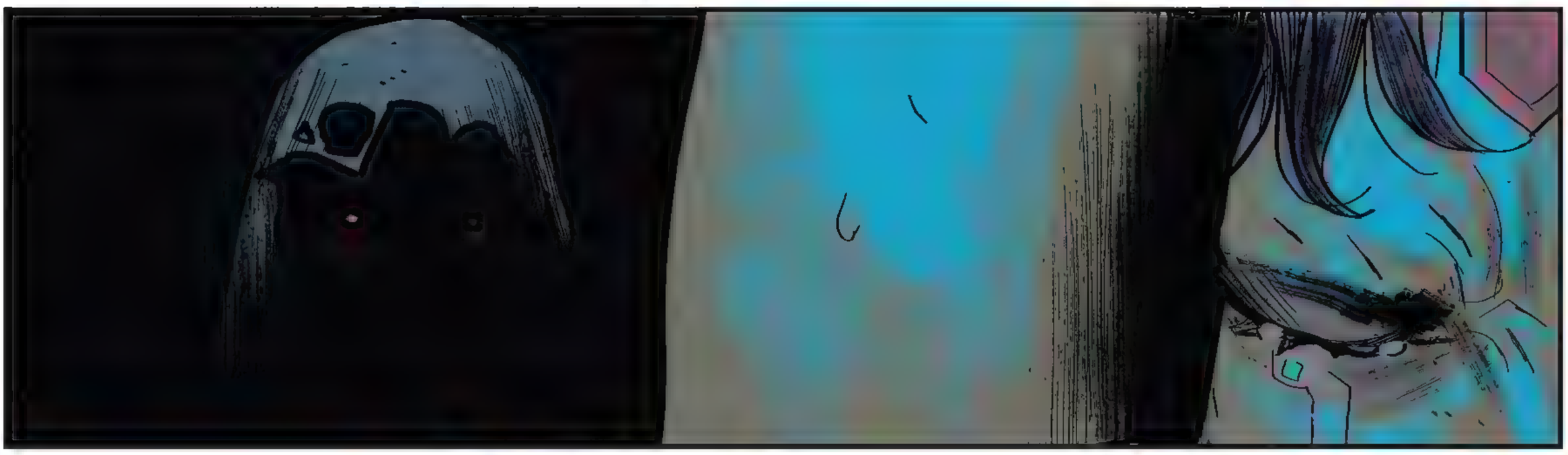
HA HA!

HA HA HA HA HA

HEH.







ARE...
ARE YOU REAL?

YES, SIR. I'M *VERY* REAL, SIR.

I BROUGHT YOUR CLOTHES, HELMET, AND TALKING GLOVE.

HELLO.

FZZZZT

LET'S GET YOU FREED, SIR.

KLANG

I DON'T MEAN TO SEEM UNGRATEFUL, BUT... I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU COULD CARRY ME, COULD YOU?

I'M AFRAID NOT, SIR.

OKAY... I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO MANAGE MORE THAN A CRAWL.

THE WAY OUT OF HERE IS A TIGHT SQUEEZE. ALL YOU CAN DO IS CRAWL.

GOOD DEAL.

WAIT--

YOU KNOW I'M AGORRIAN? YOU'RE NOT... SURPRISED TO SEE MY FACE?

WAS I THE *ONLY* ONE WHO DIDN'T KNOW?

HARDLY, SIR.

WE'RE A SMALL GROUP. BEST YOU KEEP THE HELMET ON FROM THIS POINT ON.

WHAT KIND OF GROUP?

THE KIND THAT HAS USE FOR YOU. I SHOULDN'T SAY ANY MORE.

GOOD THING I'M TRUSTING TO A FAULT...

=ACK.=

=UGH.=

STUCK. HANDROID, A LITTLE HELP?

SURE THING.

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER.

QUIET FROM HERE ON.

NO TALKING. THEY'LL HEAR. THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO, MISTER GLOVE.

THIS WAY.

YOU'RE A KID.

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? HOW ARE YOU A PART OF THIS?

WE STILL SHOULDN'T TALK.

YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO *JUMP.*

OH, MAN...

NOW WE GO *UP.*

WHAT?!
HEY!
HEY!
WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?!
CALM DOWN, SIR. WE'RE NOT GOING TO HURT YOU. WE RESCUED YOU. YOU'RE SAFE HERE.
ULTUM IS RIGHT. YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO THE KID.
WE'RE THE ONLY ZERTONIANS YOU'RE SAFE WITH. RELAX.
GUYS, LET HIM GO... BUT STAY CLOSE JUST IN CASE.

THIS SOME KIND OF UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE, THEN? THAT WHAT'S GOING ON?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

WE CALL OURSELVES UNIFIERS. WE STRIVE TO BREAK THIS MANUFACTURED CONFLICT BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE AND BRING THE TWO HALVES OF THE SACRED RING TOGETHER.

MY NAME IS ***KANELA.*** I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME, DARAK. WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP.

YOU EXPECT ME TO BETRAY MY PEOPLE? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

WE EXPECT NO SUCH THING. WE ONLY ASK THAT YOU LISTEN.

I'M NOT LISTENING TO ANYTHING UNTIL I SEE ***SOLILA.*** YOU RESCUED ME. RESCUE ***HER.***

YOU SURE ABOUT--

QUIET.

ARE YOU ***SERIOUS?*** DIDN'T SHE BETRAY YOU ALREADY? SHE'S THE REASON YOU WERE TORTURED!

IT'S ***COMPLICATED.***

WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANT... NO SOLILA. NO DEAL.

OH.

SO YOU HAVE NO CLUE WHO SHE *REALLY* IS... *DO YOU?*

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO VOIDRIVALS@SKYBOUND.COM

Welcome, readers, to the latest VOID RIVALS letters page! I'm Jonathan-I recently joined the Skybound team and am stoked to come aboard as the Energon Universe editor. Alongside Sean and Robert, we're beyond excited to say that since we last talked in issue #4, TRANSFORMERS #1 has officially hit the shelves! By now, most (hopefully all) of you know just where Jetfire flew off to back in VOID RIVALS #1, and we're so excited and thankful to be on this journey into the Energon Universe together.

PS: Stick around after the letters column to feast your eyes upon a preview of DUKE #1!!!

Yes please do! Robert here, so glad to have you back for our fifth issue. I just wanted to take a moment to say that Lorenzo and I are having the time of our lives on this series and we're so happy to see it getting unimaginable mountains of support. You're all just the greatest fans anyone could ask for!

Let's answer some mail, Jonathan!

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Dear Void Rivals Voyagers,

Void Rivals has brought excitement back to comics. The excitement of who's going to show up next!

I love that Kirkman and co. are using the alien races from G1 Season 3 to world build. So far we've seen the Skuxxoids, the Quintessons, references to Nebulos, and of course, Jetfire. I haven't said, "Who's coming next?" so many times since The Monday Night Wars between WWE and WCW.

I hope to see the Zamojins (From "Face of Ninjika"), The Eurythmans ("Carnage in C-Minor"), Primacron ("Call of the Primitives") and most of all the Junkions in these pages very shortly.

Season 3 introduced so many worlds. I can't wait to see them explored with the depth Kirkman gives to his characters and stories

Keep up the excitement.

Sincerely yours,
Todd Matthy

While all the aliens you listed are definitely a possibility, I will say I can't imagine NOT seeing the Junkions! I'll be working overtime to figure out a way to work them in.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Hello gentlemen,

First things first. Have I got the perfect name for your letters page! How does "Messages from the void" sound? What about "Transmissions from the void"?

Now to the actual comic universe you built in the very end of issue 1.

HOLY CRAP! I knew that G.I. Joe would end up somewhere, but I had no idea that it was going to fall into the hands of one Robert Kirkman. This revelation has made me extremely happy! I do have a questions though.

1. I know that GI Joe RAH is going to continue where it left us and is being written by the legend Larry Hama. Are the Duke and Cobra Commander books set in that continuity or are you starting a brand-new G.I. Joe universe that is separate from the one we've followed for 300 issues?

DUKE and COBRA COMMANDER both take place within the same universe as VOID RIVALS-the Energon Universe. We're happy to keep RAH going with Larry and also put our own spin on these awesome characters.

2. Regardless of whether they are all

in one universe or not, any chance we can get Mainframe, Dial Tone, Doc & Lifeline, and Low-Light miniseries?

At least one of these characters will show up in the first year.

3. Will the Transformers series pick-up from where we left a certain Transformer in Void Rivals 1 or is the idea that that's the end goal and we'll get to see how he wound up on that barren planet?

TRANSFORMERS #1 will pick up Jetfire's story. How he got on to that planetoid… that's a very good question…

4. Finally, and this isn't so much of a question, but a plea for sanity. I love Transformers, but I found the IDW comics very hard to follow because of how text heavy every single page was. I mean… they were REALLY text heavy. Please don't continue this trend. Let the art breathe a little.

Until all are one and Invincible meets Spider-man on Krypton, make mine Kirkman!

Matt Fischer - Chicago J

I'll handle that fourth answer. Matt, I wholeheartedly believe that IDW did some amazing work in the 17 years they had the Transformers license. They kept the flame burning and introduced some great concepts and even new characters to the mythos (Windblade!). Some people love wordy, dense comics, and some people prefer things to be breezy. With Daniel Warren Johnson at the helm, I think you can count on the art having plenty of room to breathe, but I'm sure at some point we'll have an issue or arc that could be downright Claremontian.

. . . . . .

Yo Sean et al.!

I'm loving the book so far, particularly looking at it through the lens of VOID RIVALS as a real toyline from the '80s. I wonder what the cartoon's plot would have been like-I've always found it interesting how "boys' toys" get entangled with war stories and black-and-white morality, and the comic's premise strikes me as a cool deconstruction of that idea. The color-coded factions, the modular tech, names like "Handroid"; it's all so believably toyetic... so my question is, how come I can't seem to find a Jump Jet complete w/ Darak pilot figure on eBay, huh?

We've had one reader send us pics of their custom Darak and Solila figures already! Maybe they'll cash in by selling them on eBay. --Sean

-Nico B.

PS: *Do A Powerbomb!* might just be my favourite comic. I cannot wait for DWJ's *Transformers*.

I promise it'll be worth the wait!

. . . . . .

Hello Robert, Sean and The Void team,

First off, excellent first issue, I have been collecting and reading comics for better than 40 years and this book takes me back to the 80's when I would sit at the breakfast table eating my cereal and reading The Transformers.

I'd prefer to focus on what cereal were you eating? And did they stiff you on the toy in the box?

Here are a few questions, are you planning on Void Rivals to be an ongoing series?

Yes.

Is this going to tie into the Transformers and or GI Joe?

Yes. I wouldn't expect to see Darak and Solila meet up with the main Transformers and GI Joe characters anytime soon, but at least one character featured in this series will be.

Are you going to have a GI Joe series as well and if so I thought IDW owned GI Joe, so how does that work? Thanks for all the great books.

Hasbro owns G.I. Joe and Transformers. They previously licensed the rights to IDW to produce comic books with those characters, and now we're the current license holders. We have DUKE #1 hitting in December and COBRA COMMANDER #1 in January… and that's just the start of what we're building with G.I. Joe.

Regards,

Steve White

. . . . . .

You asked for ideas, so here they are:

TALK TO THE *HANDROID*, VOIDED VOWELS, DEAR ENERGON, PEERING INTO THE

ABYSS, A GAZE INTO THE ABYSS, BUTTING HEADS, HEADSPACE, THE HUMAN FACTOR, RE: RIVALS, ARCHIVALS, SIGNALS FROM DEEEEEEEEEEP SPACE, PIPELINE TO THE HOLE, NOTHING . . . BUT STATIC.

I hope you'll find your pick among them!

If you read issue #4, you know we've been waiting for someone to suggest TALK TO THE HANDROID. Do we finally have a winner?

The trend in VOID RIVALS of cutting deep into TRANSFORMERS lore is duly appreciated. I wonder how soon it will be before characters such as Dev-Con and Lord Straxus of Darkmount set foot upon this new cosmic stage.

I'll be keeping watch.

Steve J. Begg

Stay tuned because you just never know...

. . . . . .

So far I am loving this new universe, as a life long fan of Transformers, and a huge fan of Kirkman's work in general this is the best combination possible.

I do have a few questions for the crew, who's idea was it to put Skuxxoid here? Such a deep cut into Transformers to put in the introductory issues of this universe. Also, what made you choose him over other bounty hunters from transformers (or just making a new character for that matter) and finally, will we ever see him again?

Thank you so much and I'm very much looking forward to more comics!

Garrett

"Will we ever see him again?" has already been answered. And will probably be answered again as the issues progress. Heh. I remembered Skuxxoid being a cool visual and I wanted to signal to fandom that Void Rivals is going to play up the more cosmic aspects of Transformers and exist in that zone while also showing that we love this stuff as much as fans do. It's not alienating to new fans. I know some people who just think Skuxxoid was created for this series. But to people who know, I knew it would be a cool easter egg. I also want to do cool cameos that fit without distracting from the overall story we're telling in this series. We're trying to build a foundation here so that Void Rivals stands alone as its own thing. We don't want it to just be a string of cameos with no other point.

. . . . . .

Hello Robert, Sean et al.

I've just finished reading Void Rivals #3 and I am loving the series so far. I got into comics a few years ago, but had only been reading collected editions up till now. Void Rivals is the first series I am reading monthly and I am really enjoying the experience.

It's working! Psyched to have you hitting your local comic shop, Paul.

After seeing the teaser for Transformers (which I am also planning to read monthly), a question popped into my head: Will any characters from Void Rivals travel to Earth or interact with any human characters in the future? (In crossovers with Transformers or GI Joe perhaps?)

Based on Darak and Solila's reactions to their similar appearances at the end of #1, I would be interested to see their reactions to meeting a human for the first time.

Thanks,

Paul
Cambridge, UK

At the risk of spoiling things, I wouldn't be surprised to see Darak and Solila eventually find their way to Earth... but it wouldn't be a for a good long time.

. . . . . .

Hey Kirkman and crew!

I'm really digging the book and the story with the two new characters. I'm also an OG Transformers kid from the 80s, and couldn't help but notice Lizardo's name-drop in issue #3! In G1 cartoon continuity, I'm pretty sure the last time we saw him he teamed up with Devcon the Autobot bounty hunter and flew away with him. Please tell me that means Devcon will show up to kick butt and chew bubblegum! And since bubblegum would just muck up Transformers gears, he'll just be kicking butt!

Love seeing all this Devcon enthusiasm! Good thing Void Rivals is just getting started and we've got a lot of Transformers robots left in our rolodex (Roll Out-dex?).

Adam Crohn

I have fallen in love with this series just after 3 issues and am so excited to see more of Darak and Solila's adventures! All the designs are so cool and wonderful. I would like to know how you came to certain design decisions, like the asymmetrical broken helmet design for Solila. They have such a wonderful look that I adore, and one more thing, were they always designed to be so "human" or at some point were they envisioned to be more alien?

Please keep it up, Void Rivals team rules!!

-HexedCyana

You have the extremely talented Lorenzo De Felici to thank for all the stunning designs in this series. It's been a real joy to throw out all these crazy new things to him issue after issue and watch him just spin things into gold.

Hi!

I can't believe that after Jetfire, the next characters coming from Transformers lore are characters that don't transform. But I love it; I can hear Skuxxoid's voice from the G1 show as I read his dialog. The Quintessons have been underused since the 80's, so I'm excited to see one show up and I can only hope to see more Quintesson plots and schemes in the coming issues. Is their backstory and history with the Transformers the same as in the original series?

We love all our aliens equally!

For their backstory in the Energon Universe, you'll just have to stay tuned.

Seeing these characters interact with original characters in all new stories is a wonderful blend of nostalgia and ... excitement? anticipation? I'm struggling to describe this well, but I hope you know what I mean. Please keep up the good work!

-Trevin

We aim to! Thanks, Trevin!

Just finished reading issue 3 and I'm loving it. I can't wait to see where you take these characters and the infusion of these very fringe transformers characters is so fun. 2 main questions, with the big teaser here this is setting up a new version of g1 will there be possibilities of all new original characters or even some transplants from the larger TF library? And are there possibilities for some 6" action figures of our Void Rivals heroes and villains? I'm going to need them on my shelf right next to my GI Joe Classified figures.

With countless iconic Transformers robots at our disposal (not to mention all the deep cuts), and with big long-term plans, for now we'll be focusing on existing bots. But you never know!

Tyrone Wested

Dear Mr Kirkman and Void Rivals,

I'm curious to know did any of your previous work on Oblivion Song or Invincible or Walking Dead inspire anything we have seen so far in Void Rivals? Which characters from any of those series do you feel could be most at home in the Energon Universe?

Hope to see the Void Rivals characters in action figure form in the near future! (I'm a massive GI Joe Classified collector)

Many thanks for always giving us such wonderful storytelling.

Mark

London, UK

Well, I try to keep things as different as possible as I move from series to series. Also, I'm hoping I'm learning and improving so each series is better than the last, but that's probably just a creator's pipe dream, right? Who would be at home in this universe? None of them! There's giant Transforming robots here! That would be terrifying to all of them... except maybe Mark Grayson... that guy's seen some things...

Same time, same place next month, gang! What do Kanela, Ultum, and their resistance really want from Darak? And you know Mistress Vill is far from done with Solila. We'll see you next month for the final issue of Arc 1!

PS: Remember the DUKE #1 preview, starting… now!

-Jonathan

WHOA! DUKE PREVIEW?! People are going to FREAK OUT! Excellent!!

-Robert

"EVEN IN BOOTCAMP, IT WAS CLEAR YOU HAD THE RIGHT STUFF.

"TOP OF YOUR CLASS. EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS.

"A LEADER **ON** THE BATTLEFIELD.

"AND **OFF.**

"**COUNTLESS** SUCCESSFUL EXTRACTION AND RESCUE MISSIONS. WITH **ZERO** COLLATERAL DAMAGE.

DUKE

"FROM **DAY ONE,** IT'S BEEN CLEAR THAT YOU ARE...

"A MAN OF ACTION."

"YOU TURN DOWN EVERY PROMOTION OPPORTUNITY.

"SOME THINK YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CAREER ***GRUNT.***

"BUT **I** KNOW BETTER.

"YOU BELIEVE YOUR PLACE IS NOT IN IN A COMMAND ROOM, BUT IN THE ***TRENCHES*** WITH THE ***TROOPS.***

"YOU ARE ONE OF THE ***FINEST*** PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

BUT NONE OF THAT MEANS ***JACK*** NOW.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, CONRAD?

INSUBORDINATION. CARELESSNESS. YOU'RE BARELY IN UNIFORM...

FRANKLY, I EXPECTED THIS OF YOUR BROTHER BUT NEVER YOU.

DUKE

REGARDLESS, WE WANT YOU BACK.

YOUR COUNTRY ***NEEDS*** YOU BACK.

HAWK

CODENAME G.I. JOE STARTS HERE!

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON ★ TOM REILLY ★ JORDIE BELLAIRE

G.I. JOE

Superstar writer JOSHUA WILLIAMSON (DC's *Superman, Dark Ride*) teams up with acclaimed artist TOM REILLY (Marvel's *The Thing*) to reveal the origins of G.I. JOE in a world impacted by the arrival of Autobots and Decepticons.

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RATED **T** / TEEN

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